

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, YO, US

SUBJECT:ARTUKOVIC

REF: STATE 96309

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF A WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL
ENTITLED "JUSTICE FOR WAR CRIMINALS" THAT APPEARED
MAY 13:

BEGIN TEXT:

NO ASPECT OF POSTWAR AMERICAN POLICY IS MORE SHAMEFUL
THAN THE REFUGE GIVEN KNOWN AND SUSPECTED NAZI WAR
CRIMINALS WHO EXPLOITED ANTI-COMMUNISM TO ESCAPE JUSTICE
IN THEIR HOMELANDS. OF THE SCUM--IF THAT IS NOT TOO MILD
A WORD-- WHO HAVE BENEFITED FROM THIS LAPSE, ANDRIJA
ARTUKOVIC MAY BE THE MOST NOTORIOUS. AS MINISTER OF
INTERIOR IN THE FASCIST PUPPET STATE THAT HITLER SET UP
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IN OCCUPIED CROATIA, ARTUKOVIC DIRECTED THE MURDER OF
600,000 OR MORE SERBS, TENS OF THOUSANDS OF JEWS AND
NUMEROUS GYPSIES, AMONG OTHERS. AFTER THE WAR, HE SLIPPED
INTO THIS COUNTRY UNDER A FALSE NAME. UNMASKED, HE
MANAGED TO AVOID DEPORTATION BY CLAIMING, WITH IMMIGRATION
AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE APPROVAL, THAT HE WOULD BE

POLITICALLY PERSECUTED BY THE COMMUNIST REGIME IN
YUGOSLAVIA.

THE INS, IN A NEW RULING, HAS NOW SAID THAT THE PROHIBI-
TION ON DEPORTING ALIENS WHO MIGHT BE PERSECUTED FOR
THEIR POLITICS DOES NOT APPLY TO PERSONS CONSIDERED TO
HAVE COMMITTED WAR CRIMES. SO ARTUKOVIC, WHO IS 76
AND LIVES NEAR LOS ANGELES, FACES DEPORTATION ANEW. THAT
HE DOES, THAT DEPORTATION OR DENATURALIZATION PROCEEDINGS
HAVE BEEN BEGUN AGAINST EIGHT OTHERS BELIEVED TO BE
WAR CRIMINALS, THAT THE CASES OF STILL 80-ODD OTHERS
ARE BEING INVESTIGATED, THAT ONE PERSON (THE FIRST)
ACTUALLY WAS EXTRADITED FOR ACCUSED WAR CRIMES LAST YEAR-
ALL THIS IS CAUSE FOR SOBER SATISFACTION. THE GRIP OF
REFLEXIVE ANTI-COMMUNISM HAD TO WEAKEN FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.
GREAT PERSONAL TENACITY AND DEDICATION HAD TO BE SHOWN
BY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE IN THE BUREAUCRACY AND BY A FEW
FIRE-SETTING POLITICIANS, INCLUDING REPS. JOSHUA EILBERG
AND ELIZABETH HOLTZMAN AND OTHERS.

IT ASSAULTS ONE'S SENSES TO THINK THAT PEOPLE ACCUSED OF
COMMITTING THE VILEST CRIMES KNOWN TO MAN COULD HAVE
ENJOYED LIBERTY AND A GOOD LIFE IN AMERICA FOR SO MANY
YEARS. THEREIN LIES THE BASIC REASON WHY THOSE SO
ACCUSED SHOULD, AFTER BEING ACCORDED DUE PROCESS, BE
DEPORTED FOR TRIAL. THE SOONER THE REVIEW IS COMPLETED,
MOREOVER, THE STRONGER WILL BE THE UNITED STATES'
POSITION TO DEMAND THAT OTHER NATIONS HARBORING WAR
CRIMINALS, AND NATIONS HARBORING POLITICAL TERRORISTS
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OF A MORE RECENT VINTAGE, YIELD THEM UP TO THE LAW.
END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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